



Langdon
Primary
School

2021-2022



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This is my favourite term of the year because we have a Bank Holiday Monday that is not in the school holidays and this feels like a special day each year! Even though we have what feels like an extra day off, this is actually a really hard term for staff and pupils because there is so much stuffed into it.

Residential Visits

On 9 May 2022, the children in Years 3 and 4 left school in two stuffed minibuses heading for Bewl Water near Goudhurst in West Kent. The children stayed in the purpose built accommodation block for two nights and took part in a number of activities both on dry land and on water. For many children it was the first time they had been away from their home or their parents overnight and the excitement at choosing a bed and trying to fit a duvet into a cover was almost too much to bear!

During the next three days, the children took part in a number of activities led by skilled and experienced staff - canoeing, giant stand-up paddle-boarding, archery, rock climbing, challenge courses, bush craft including fire lighting and marshmallow toasting, long walks and games. Without a doubt, most children thought that the time on the water was their favourite. In fact, it was hard to keep some of them out of the water once they'd been given permission to jump, fall or elegantly slide into the reservoir from the boards! What a joy to see children who have previously been terrified in the shallow end of the swimming pool in Dover, jumping into deep water and laughing uncontrollably as they made a big splash or got stuck because of friction when trying to re-board. It was the level of superb supervision and coaching that made it all possible. Safety came first at all times and the children were allowed to have fun and take safe risks, learning about themselves, their abilities and their fears at the same time.

At night the children came together as a group and watched DVDs in their PJs, took a long walk with clouds of midges along the reservoir dam wall and played on the best pirate ship playground with the longest slide in Kent (or possibly the world). They were well fed and watered by Tracey, the cook working single handedly to prepare and serve a mountain of hot and cold food three times a day. She even made them a birthday cake - although it wasn't anyone's birthday - just for fun.

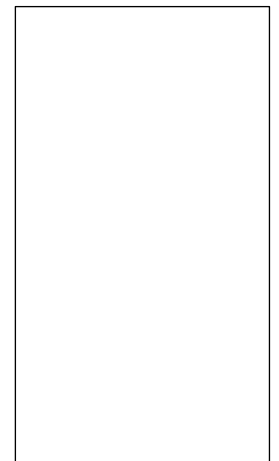
The children were amazing to be with. They were a credit to the school and to our core values in action. I have never seen so many children reach the top of the climbing wall or take just two more steps if they were a little worried. They played well together and they were reasonably tidy in their bedrooms (that was a surprise!). The Bewl Water staff commented on what a lovely bunch of children they are and I have to agree.

Residential visits are an important part of life at Langdon. Most other primary schools offer one residential, in Year 6. We offer three and we believe that the children really benefit from them. They return to school more socially bonded with their class mates, they are more resilient when facing a challenge and less likely to give up when they find it hard going and they are confident in the adults who care for them and in experiences we give them. Our trip to Bewl Water left the children tired (and a bit grubby) but they have certainly benefitted from it and have happy memories for life.



During the last week of term, children in Years 5 and 6 will be visiting Manor Adventure's outdoor education centre in Norfolk. The children will take part in activities on water such as canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, raft building, and activities on land such as indoor pot holing, archery, rifle range and challenge courses. This is their last opportunity to do a residential visit at Langdon and it really helps with their confidence and enthusiasm when they have done a previous one. I know that they are going to have a fabulous time with Mrs Trenchard, Mr Jones and myself.

Our Year 2 pupils will have their first taste of a residential visit in July when they visit the Duke of York's Royal Military School for a night. Mrs Keem has planned for lots of great adventures such as using the climbing wall, swimming and an evening treasure hunt walk as well as lots of time to play and have fun. Being close to school, this is a great first trip away from home and not too far if it all gets too much at bedtime!



SATS

We have all been immensely proud of the children in Year 6 this week as they have approached and sat their end of Key Stage assessments. SATs are a bank of assessments that all children who are enrolled in school have to do at certain points in their school journey. They measure how much children have learned and remembered in the core curriculum of reading, writing and mathematics. I always say to the children that they are designed to show us what the children have learned and remembered over the last seven years. And of course, this is an important measure, but it's a measure for the teachers mainly, not for the children. It tells us what we have taught you well and what we still have to teach or teach better. I've been impressed by the way the children have just got on with doing the assessments as if they were just like any other assessments that we do in school; with a level of concentration and seriousness but not with worry or fear or trepidation. They were confident in themselves and their abilities and didn't let those negative feelings get in the way.

Of course, a SAT only measures a minute part of a child's journey through primary school. It doesn't measure how good they are at making and keeping friends, how kind or helpful or polite they are, whether they speak two languages or play a musical instrument or are sporty or artistic. Primary school is about so much more than SATs and when our children look back on their time here they will remember the things that were important but memorable - did they learn to read Harry Potter, sing solo for an audience, play the piano or write a brilliant poem or add up how many goals they scored in football; could they sing or dance or did they take part in a school play; were the trips or theme days fun and what about the time they had to dress up as a pirate and walk the plank or work out how to make a brilliant castle from junk? Our aim at Langdon is to make our children well rounded, talented and adaptable learners who love learning in lots of ways, for life. So, while the SATs are important for us, they are not the be all and end all.

CLASS CHANGES

After the half term break, some children will be moving into new classes with their new teachers. This has worked really well in the past but the pandemic has prevented us doing this over the last couple of years. The following changes will happen for your children:

Year 6 will begin to work under the direction of Mr Jones and with the support of Mrs Britton on their end of year production and their transition/leaving events. They will continue to work on the curriculum but much of their afternoons will be taken up with preparation and rehearsal for the performance and then the leaving service.

Years 4 and 5 will work with Mr Jones and student teacher Mrs Hemmings Cross (who some of you may know from her days working as a teaching assistant at Langdon). Mrs Hemmings Cross is in her final term of teacher training and already experienced in teaching in her own class at her own school. She will mainly work with the Year 4 children in the first few weeks whilst the Year 5s rehearse for the production in the afternoon sessions.

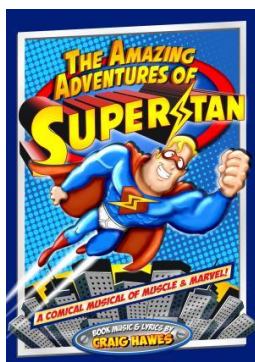
Miss Warburton is going to stay at Langdon for the next year which is fantastic news, and she will be teaching all of the Year 3 children in Term 6. At times, she will also work with the Year 2 children as they prepare for their transition to their new class properly in September. Mrs Capell will also support these children as they move up the school.

Mrs Keem is going to teach all of the Year 1 and 2 children supported by Mrs Davison and Mrs Harris, who has returned to Langdon after a short break.

Mrs Seccatore will teach the Year R children, supported by Mrs Trenchard and Miss Olver.

All class names will stay the same for the time being and then change in September. Your child's class teachers will reassure you that this works well for our children and helps with their next year of schooling - please talk to them if you need to.

'THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF SUPERSTAN'



'Stanley Marvel may be the clumsiest clot in Megaville but he's happy to read his comics and dream his life away. That is, until it is turned upside down when he discovers that local hero, The Candy King, is actually a super-villain determined to conquer the world with his corrupt confectionary! As the sugary charlatan and his mad minions enslave the citizens with hypnotic gobstoppers and a giant remote control, Stan knows Megaville is in need of a superhero. But when his gran and her crumbly chums reveal an earth-shattering secret, Stan's shocked to discover his own true identity.

With a dose of secret formula and a pair of fantastic elastic anti-gravity underpants, Stanley Marvel takes to the skies as the greatest super-hero the world has every known. Is it a bird, is it a plane? No, it's SuperStan - a caped crusader fighting for truth, freedom and justice with his super powers, super tights and the strength to open a really tricky jar of pickles!'

Our end of year production this year is a rip-roaring run through the tale of SuperStan. Written by the same team who write many of our popular festival songs it proves to be a laugh (or groan) a minute with many jokes and lots of witty over acting! The production takes place on Thursday 7 July 2022 at 6.30pm at St Margaret's Village Hall. Tickets are available from the school office - £3.00 for adults and £1.00 for children; bring the whole family! There will also be a raffle so please bring along some loose change to try your luck.

It's great to see our youngsters performing, and to have a live audience to perform to, so we look forward to seeing you there and thank you in anticipation for your support.

For the parents of children in Eagles Class - I'm sorry to have to say this but every year there is someone who doesn't consider the effect of their actions on the staff who are working hard to make this happen . . . Please remember that a lot of time, thought, preparation and effort goes into an end of year production. Staff make the decisions about who does which part based on their knowledge of the children in their class. Please support your child in the part they have been given to learn their lines and their actions. Not everyone can be the star player, so if your child is feeling a bit sad about this, support them to make the most of the part they have. We will not make changes upon the request of the children or parents - this will be a staff decision alone.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our children have been invited to take part in this new and wonderful opportunity to learn to sing and read music at the Queen's Jubilee Service on Sunday 5 June 2022 at 4pm. Anyone over the age of 6 years old, who can commit to rehearsals on Sundays from 11.15am to 12.15pm at St Margaret's Church from Sunday 8 May onwards should get in touch with Becky Clifford for more information. She can be contacted at beckyclifford@me.com.

Believe you and me, we know every parent's viewpoint on a range of subjects because your children tell us, usually in the words you have used - you probably hear the same at home from us!

Take care not to zone into the crisis on the media every time it is on TV or keep checking the tablet for updates in front of your children. They will watch you do this and they will begin to want the same kind of update to feed their emotional response.

Talk about it with adults if you need to but do so away from your children; keep your children's understanding to the facts and above all reassure them that good will prevail (even if it doesn't seem like it at the time). If they ask questions about the situation, answer them calmly, objectively and honestly but always at the right level for their understanding. Use facts as far as possible rather than emotive language or descriptive images or opinions. If they ask a question that you don't know the answer to, say that you don't know - they are used to the teachers saying this in school so they know that adults aren't always able to give answers but that they will when they find them out.

Don't lose sight of the fact that although you may have a mature child who you feel can cope with more than this, some of the children they mix with and talk to will not have the same level of maturity and ability to cope with this kind of topic. If you are the parent of the mature child, explicitly tell them to be mindful of how they talk in school so that they don't upset their peers.

Ask your child what they know already if they do raise the subject of Ukraine. This is a chance to find out what they have already gleaned and to put right any misinformation or misconceptions that they have. When children are asked about their knowledge, they feel empowered and they will give you everything they know - warts and all!

Finally, if you're not sure what to say to your child if the subject is raised (and don't feel that you need to raise it unless they do, it's probably not of interest, concern or something they are developmentally ready for) then tell them something like this: that the Russian leader made a decision to send military troops into Ukraine which is an independent, democratic nation and not part of Russia.

Many countries around the world, including the UK, do not support this action. They are working together to try to stop the conflict.

And finally, the teachers will be able to help if you feel that your child is overly concerned - please ask.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
21.2.22	Beginning of Term 4	
3.3.22	World Book Day - dress in pjs and dressing gowns!	
Wb 7.3.22	DT Theme Week	
11.3.22	STEM Challenge day	
18.3.22	Comic Relief - wear red and bring money for comic relief cookies and cakes	
1.4.22	Spring Service at St Augustine's Church, East Langdon - Parrots and Owls Classes Easter Service at St Augustine's Church, East Langdon - Hawks and Eagles Classes o/c Children begin Easter Holiday	10am 1.30pm
19.4.22	Beginning of Term 5	

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